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STATINTL

Dodd Fights Subpoena Asking Johnson Data

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Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., has challenged a subpoena calling on him to produce correspondence relating to President Johnson's appearance at two fund-raising dinners on grounds the request is "too broad and vague."

Dodd's position was explained in a motion filed in U.S. District Court yesterday as opposing attorneys continued their pre-trial maneuvering in a \$5 million libel suit filed by the senator against newspaper

columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson.

The columnists earlier this month sought to subpoena thousands of documents from Dodd's files, but the senator's lawyers have served notice that they will contest the request for information in 28 of the 49 categories of documents.

Main Objections

Among the Pearson-Anderson requests which Dodd's lawyers said they were unwilling to meet were:

1. Federal income tax returns, which the senator's lawyers argued "are considered confidential" and not subject to subpoena.
2. A list of 1964 campaign receipts and expenditures, rejected because the request was "vague and burdensome."
3. A similar request for 1956 campaign receipts and expenditures. The lawyers said the request suffered from a "lack of specificity."
4. Receipts for expenses and other documents relating to the wedding of Dodd's daughter, described as a "ridiculous, offensive and irrelevant" request.
5. Correspondence between Dodd and Dr. Fred Schwarz, leader of the Christian Anti-Communist League, rejected on the grounds that the request was "plainly irrelevant."

Johnson Memos Sought

The columnists are seeking all

"correspondence, memos and other communications" between Dodd and Johnson or members of Johnson's staff pertaining to testimonial dinners held on the senator's behalf in 1961 and 1963.

Johnson, then vice president, was the principal speaker at both events. Pearson and Anderson have charged that Dodd siphoned off money raised for political purposes for his personal use.

The hearing yesterday before federal Judge Alexander Holtzoff came after the opposing attorneys were unable to agree on a schedule for the taking of depositions—sworn pre-trial statements designed to facilitate the courtroom proceedings.

Holtzoff ruled that the deposition sessions would begin on May 26, with the examination of Mrs. Rose Marie Lampkin, a former Dodd employee.

More Statements Coming

The judge said the senator's attorneys would have the opportunity to take depositions from two other persons before the columnists' lawyers could take a deposition from Dodd, the only individual from whom they seek a pre-trial statement.

John F. Sonnett, Dodd's principal attorney, said he would take depositions from Pearson and Anderson after examining Mrs. Lampkin.

Holtzoff also rejected an effort by Dodd's lawyers to have the deposition transcripts sealed by the court until the trial begins.

The judge ruled that the transcripts would be available for inspection by the press and public after each deposition session.